

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2667

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 5148

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CHIANG'S HEALTH

1. THE FOLLOWING IS CNA TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE RE
PRESIDENT CHIANG'S HEALTH WHICH REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN
TOKYO'S SANKEI SHIMBUN AUGUST 15, AND WHICH THAT PAPER
ATTRIBUTES TO GROC SOURCES. WE WILL COMMENT BY SEPTTEL.

2. "PRESIDENT CHIANG SUFFERED FROM PNEUMONIA IN THE LATTER
PART OF JULY TWO YEARS AGO AND HAD TO UNDERGO A LONG PERIOD
OF RECUPERATION. RECENT X-RAY EXAMINATIONS SHOWED THAT HE
HAS FULLY RECOVERED AND THAT THERE IS NOTHING ABNORMAL IN
HIS LUNG, WHICH IS FUNCTIONING VERY NORMALLY RIGHT NOW. HIS
LEG MUSCLES HAVE BEEN IMPROVING FAST AND NOW HE CAN MOVE
AROUND ALL BY HIMSELF. WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, HE TAKES AN
HOUR'S EXERCISE EVERY MORNING AT THE ADVICE OF
SPECIALISTS. HOWEVER, HE SOMETIMES SUFFERS FROM SLIGHT
INFLAMMATION OF A TISSUE WOUND RECEIVED IN A SURGERY
SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

3. "ACCORDING TO HIS DOCTORS' REPORTS, HIS BLOOD PRESSURE
IS 130 OVER 70; HIS PULSE RATE IS 72 ON REST AND 82 AFTER
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PHYSICAL EXERTION; HIS BODY TEMPERATURE READING IS
AROUND 36.8 DEGREES (CENTIGRADE) AND EVERYTHING IS NORMAL.

THE ONLY THING IS THAT HE HAS A SLIGHTLY ENLARGED HEART, BUT ITS FUNCTION IS NORMAL; AND THE FUNCTIONS OF HIS LIVER, KIDNEY, STOMACH AND INTESTINES ARE ALL NORMAL.

4. "LIVING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE AT SHIHLIN IN SUBURBAN TAIPEI, THE PRESIDENT LEADS A REGULAR DAILY ROUTINE. HE GETS UP AT SIX IN THE MORNING, TAKES AN HOUR'S NAP AFTER LUNCH, AND GOES TO BED AT 10 AT NIGHT. HE DOESN'T CHANGE THIS ROUTINE. AFTER GETTING UP, HE HAS HIS MORNING PRAYER AND EXERCISE; AFTER BREAKFAST, HE READS THE MORNING PAPERS.

5. "BESIDES ATTENDING DAILY OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, HE SPENDS MOST OF THE MORNING HOURS IN READING AND DOING EXERCISES AS ADVISED BY SPECIAL DOCTORS. IN THE AFTERNOON, HE GETS A BRIEFING ON LATEST NEWS FROM AN AIDE. AND LATER HE MAY TAKE A RIDE TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF TAIPEI, AND SOMETIMES A TOUR OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THESE ARE HIS DAILY ACTIVITIES.

6. "AFTER DINNER, HE MAY LISTEN TO RADIO MUSIC, WATCH TELEVISION PROGRAMS, MOVIES OR ATTEND POETRY RECITATIONS. "MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HIM WHENEVER SHE IS NOT ATTENDING OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

7. "PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO VISITS THE PRESIDENT AND MADAME CHIANG TWICE EVERY DAY, OFTEN HAVING SUPPER WITH THEM. THE GRANDCHILDREN OF THE PRESIDENT HAVE DINNER WITH THEIR GRANDPA BY TURN; AND THIS IS AN OCCASION FOR A HAPPY FAMILY REUNION.

8. "THE PRESIDENT PREFERS HIS DISHES PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE NATIVE STYLE COOKING OF NINGPO; AND HE FAVORS VEGETABLES, FRUITS, EGGS, LIVERS AND ALMOND TEA."
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